

Eye Diseases and Disorders of Vision
Summary of Methods and Data for Estimate of Costs of Illness

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|--|-----------------|
| 1. Estimated Total Economic Cost | \$ 38.4 billion |
| Estimated Direct Cost | \$ 22.3 billion |
| Estimated Indirect Cost | \$ 16.1 billion |
| Reference Year | 1991 |
| IC Providing the Estimate | NEI |
| | |
| Direct Costs Include: Other related nonhealth costs | Yes |
| Indirect Costs Include: | |
| Mortality costs | Not available |
| Morbidity costs: Lost workdays of the patient | Yes |
| Morbidity costs: Reduced productivity of the patient | Yes |
| Lost earnings of unpaid care givers | Not available |
| Other related nonhealth costs | Not available |
| Interest Rate Used to Discount Out-Year Costs | Not available |
| 2. Category code(s) from the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification,(ICD-9-CM) for all diseases whose costs are included in this estimate: <u>360-379</u> . | |
| 3. Estimate Includes Costs: | |
| Of related conditions beyond primary, strictly coded ICD-9-CM category | Not available |
| Attributable to the subject disease as a secondary diagnosis | Not available |
| Of conditions for which the subject disease is an underlying cause | Not available |
| 4. Population Base for Cost Estimate (Total U.S. pop or other) | Total U.S. pop. |
| 5. Annual (prevalence model) or Lifetime (incidence model) Cost: | Annual |
| 6. Perspective of Cost Estimate (Total society, Federal budget, or Other) | Total Society |
| 7. Approach to Estimation of Indirect Costs | Human Capital |
| | |
| 8. <u>Source of Cost Estimate</u> : (Reference published or unpublished report, or address and telephone of person/office responsible for estimate) | |

Hu, Teh-Wei. Economic Costs of Visual Disorders and Disabilities: United States, 1982.
 Unpublished NEI report.

9. Other Indicators of Burden of Disease:

Thousands of Americans are blinded each year by eye diseases and disorders of vision. An estimated 1.7 million people will have some degree of visual impairment in FY 1996 as a result of age-related macular degeneration alone, and approximately 100,000 will experience a devastating, rapid loss of vision. Although vision research conducted nationally and internationally has yielded effective treatments, nearly 24,000 diabetics are blinded each year due to diabetic retinopathy. Cataract accounts for 1.3 to 1.5 million surgical procedures each year. An estimated 3 million people have glaucoma, and 120,000 are blind as a consequence. These diseases account for a significant portion of the estimated \$22.3 billion in direct costs and \$16.1 billion in indirect costs that visual disorders and disabilities impose on our society each

year. It should also be noted that there are an estimated 12.2 million people in the U.S. with a best corrected visual acuity of 20/40 or worse in at least one eye, and 2.3 million people over age 40 with visual impairment in both eyes.

10. Commentary:

Based on Hu's (1982) report estimating \$8.6 billion as the direct cost and \$6.2 billion as the indirect cost of visual disorders and disabilities in the U.S. in 1981, approximate corresponding numbers for 1991 direct cost is \$22.3 billion and the indirect cost is 16.1 billion. This later estimate reflects a 10% annual increase in costs, which is in line with the actual rise in total U.S. expenditures for medical care.